

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 08416 181755Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

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R 181600Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5436

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8416

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF TRIESTE/ZONE B DISPUTE

1. DURING COURSE OF CALL TODAY ON NEW FONOFF DIRECTOR FOR YUGOSLAV AFFAIRS (FRANCHETTI PARDO, EMBOFF INQUIRED AS TO LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON ZONE B DISPUTE. PARDO, SHOWING SOME RETICENCE TO PROBE DEEPING INT THE SUBJECT, INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE SINCE THE LAST YUGOSLAV NOTE IN MID-MAY. FROM GOI VIEWPOINT, THIS WAS ENCOURAGING SIGN SINCE MAJOR ITALIAN AIM FROM THE OUTSET HAD BEEN TO TONE DOWN THE POLEMICS AND PLACE ISSUE ON BACK BURNER. PARDO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BELGRADE HAD ISSUED STRONG STATEMENT SETTING FORTH YUGOSLAV POSITION ON OCCASION OF LCY CONGRESS BUT NOTED THAT STATEMENT WAS LESS PROVOCATIVE THAN HAD BEEN EARLIER FEARED. MEANWHILE, YUGOSLAV PRESS CAMPAIGN HAD TAPERED OFF AND BELGRADE HAD REFRAINED FROM ANY FORMS OF DIRECT PRESSURE EVEN IN WAKE OF ITALIAN DIVORCE REFERENDUM.

2. REGARDING NEW DIPLOMATIC MOVES, PARDO SAID THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN CONCERNING A REPLY TO LAST GOY NOTE. HE NOTED UNSETTLED ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION AND INTIMATED THAT, IN ABSENCE OF COMPELLING REASON TO ACT OTHERWISE, GOI WOULD BE CONTENT TO CONTINUE TO

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PAGE 02 ROME 08416 181755Z

TEMPORIZE. PARDO ALSO SAID THAT, AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THERE HAD BEEN

NO INITIATIVES FROM EITHER SIDE TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE. ONLY QUESTION WHICH SEEMED TO GIVE PARDO SOME CONCERN WAS ITALIAN FEELING THAT INCREASE OF SLOVENE INFLUENCE AT LCY CONGRESS COULD IN TIME RESULT IN FURTHER ROUND OF POLEMICS.

3. REFERRING TO JUNE 17 ARTICLE IN L'UNITA WHICH REPORTED JUNE 16 ATTACK BY BORBA ON CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR ASSERTING TERRITORIAL PRETENSIONS AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA IN RECENT POPOLO EDITORIAL, EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY OFFICIAL FALLOUT FROM THIS LATEST EXCHANGE OF POLEMICS. PARDO REPLIED THAT SO FAR MATTER HAD BEEN CONFINED TO PRESS ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF

DIPLOMATIC PROTEST. IF BELGRADE DECIDED TO PROTEST, PARDO FELT CERTAIN THEY WOULD TAKE LINE OF BORBA ARTICLE THAT, AS OFFICIAL DC MOUTHPICE, POPOLO WAS EXPRESSING VIEWS OF GOI. HOWEVER, PARDO SAID, WITH FREEDOM OF PRESS THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE CASE. AT SAME TIME, HE COMMENTED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD ONLY LEARNED OF POPOLO PIECE SEVERAL DAYS AFTER IT APPEARED AND HE WAS FRANKLY PERPLEXED AS TO THE MOTIVES OF THE AUTHORS. VOLPE

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